

PWR Guatemala
NATIONAL EMERGENCY
Situation Report # 7

Adverse event	Tropical Storm Agatha and eruption of Pacaya volcano
Date of event	29 May 2010
Impact area	22 departments and 200 municipalities affected (61% of all municipalities in Guatemala)
Report date	8 June 2010

1. Current situation:

- According to information from the Meteorological Office in Guatemala, rain will tend to intensify starting on Wednesday in the southern and central regions of the country due to the approach of an easterly wave.
- The Mackenney crater of the Pacaya volcano remains active with small white and blue fumaroles and small gray ash explosions 100 meters above the crater. The degassing is creating a sound similar to aircraft turbines that can be heard five kilometers from the volcano.

CONRED has decided to switch from Red to Orange Institutional Alert, and they continue sending humanitarian assistance for recovery and rehabilitation activities in the affected areas.

2. Impact of the event:

Dead: 174
Missing: 101
Evacuated: 159,882
People in shelters: 25,123 due to Agatha y 2,964 due to the Pacaya volcano
No. of shelters: 223
Affected: 496,706

3. Recent information related to the health of the population:

The most common diseases found in shelters by health brigades are respiratory infections, diarrhea and skin diseases. In addition, cases of PTSD and bouts of panic over recent events have been reported. Some cases of emotional problems have also been detected due to the overcrowding in some shelters.

4. Summary of activities carried out by the Ministry of Health

- 56 psychologists from the Ministry of Health and the 40 from University of San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC) are providing emotional support in shelters.
- The 34 brigades mobilized by the Ministry of Health continue to support health services in shelters.

- Kits are being distributed to care for victims of sexual violence, both adults and children.
- A team of nutritionists has also been mobilized to shelters inland.
- Personnel from the Area of Vectors continue to work exclusively with dengue control.

5. Response from the U.N. System

The U.N. System, together with national institutions, continues giving support to humanitarian actions:

- UNFPA has purchased 3.000 care kits for victims of sexual violence that will be distributed by the Red Cross to women in shelters.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed humanitarian assistance to approximately 86,676 people.
- UNESCO donated US\$ 125,000 to rescue the Quirigua Archaeological Park and the reconstruction of educational buildings.
- UNICEF will be providing US\$ 500,000 to work with their counterparts in emergency response.

6. Summary of activities carried out by PAHO/WHO

PAHO/WHO is:

- supporting the Ministry of Health in the standardization of information management and epidemiological surveillance. For this, a group of 40 people in the MOH was trained in the Alert and Emergency Response System (SARE);
- giving technical support to the national laboratory for strengthening surveillance of dengue, influenza and rotavirus;
- providing technical advice to the department of Izabal for dengue prevention and control;
- supporting, with specialized human, the search for cases of malnutrition in shelters in the eight municipalities of the department of Totonicapán;
- supporting in the acquisition of lenses and masks (1,000 units) for workers in the department of Guatemala;
- supporting damage and needs assessments of health facilities in various departments, both of infrastructure and equipment;
- participating in coordination meetings with the U.N. System, health sector and UNETE.

7. Summary of activities carried out by the International community

- The government of Japan sent a shipment of blankets, tents, water purifiers and mattresses (valued at US\$ 219,394.40).
- Humanitarian assistance continues to be sent to the affected departments with the support of the Guatemalan Air Force, the U.S. Southern Command and JTF Bravo, Colombian Air Force and Civil Protection of Mexico.
- In total, 645 tons of food have been mobilized by ground and air.

This report has been prepared by the Emergency Operations Center of PAHO/WHO Guatemala.

For more information visit: <http://new.paho.org/gut/>

Sources:

- *Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres. CONRED*
www.conred.gob.gt
- *Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social de Guatemala*
www.mspas.gob.gt
- *Red de Información Humanitaria para América Latina y el Caribe. Redhum.*
<http://www.redhum.org/>